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E. De la Garza

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news release

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(NR93-067)

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CHAIRMAN DE LA GARZA TO JOIN AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ON VISIT TO MEXICO

For immediate release, Thursday, August 26, 1993

WASHINGTON -- House Agriculture Committee Chairman Kika de la Garza, D-Texas, will accompany Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy early next week on Espy's first official visit to Mexico City since taking charge of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The two U.S. agricultural leaders are scheduled to meet with Mexican government officials and attend opening ceremonies for a U.S.-sponsored food festival.

"I am honored that Secretary Espy has asked me to join him on his first official visit to Mexico City. This trip will allow me to participate in the Secretary's meetings with Mexico's top officials, including President Salinas. Our focus is obviously on agricultural trade issues and, in particular, the upcoming congressional consideration of the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement. I look forward to a very productive visit as we continue our efforts to improve trade relations and enhance the income opportunities for American farmers and American workers through greater food exports to Mexico," said Rep. de la Garza.

On Monday, Aug. 30, and Tuesday, Aug. 31, Rep. de la Garza and Secretary Espy are scheduled to meet with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Agriculture and Water Resources Secretary Carlos Hank, and Commerce and Industrial Development Secretary Jaime Serra Puche. They will also be briefed by U.S. Embassy officials and USDA staff in Mexico City on U.S. agricultural trade initiatives in that country.

Rep. de la Garza will also accompany Secretary Espy to the opening ceremonies Tuesday afternoon for the U.S. Food Festival, a three-day trade show organized by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. The food show will be held at the Palacio Mundial de las Ferias in Mexico City's historic district. According to USDA, the trade show's 186 booths will feature a wide range of consumer-ready food and beverage items produced in the United States by 190 commercial firms from 35 states, including 17 exhibitors from Texas.